But there was more [illegible] had heard of the victory. [illegible] very last.

December 18, 1977

FBI probed Oswald book author as possible KGB spy

By EARL GOLZ
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The author of the best-selling book written in collaboration with the former Marina Oswald was under FBI investigation a month before the Kennedy assassination in 1963 as a possible recruit for Russian KGB intelligence work.

Mrs. Priscilla Johnson McMillan later was interviewed by the FBI as an assassination "suspect" one day after Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly shot President John Kennedy, according to FBI documents declassified earlier this month.

Mrs. McMillan, who wrote the book "Marina and Lee," told The News Saturday she "didn't know they (FBI) were watching me prior" to the assassination.

Mrs. McMillan, now 49, had interviewed Oswald after he defected to Russia in 1959. When the two FBI agents interviewed her in 1963 she said she "showed them my interview notes with Oswald," who was still alive a day after the assassination. The notes were photographed later by both the FBI and the State Department.

The segment of the FBI interview about her Oswald encounter while she was a freelance writer in Russia appeared in the Warren Commission volumes, but no mention was made of the FBI's suspicion she may have been involved in the assassination. That report was among the 40,001 pages of FBI records on the assassination that were declassified Dec. 7 of this year.

"I had a Freedom of Information suit requesting, for a long time, for my FBI file," Mrs. McMillan said, "and I have never received it . . . I have not seen any of the stuff you read to me."

She speculated the report was classified for 14 years because "it would be something that would very much compromise my chance of going back" to Russia.

Interviewing Mrs. McMillan, who then had an office at the Russian Research Center at Harvard University, were FBI agents Darrel B. Currie and James T. Sullivan.

In the report just declassified, they said the purpose of the interview "was to obtain information regarding Lee Harvey Oswald. Incidental thereto and without indicating possible bureau interest in her as a suspect in the captioned case, she was advised that inasmuch as she is a potential witness, that biographical and background data on her would be desirable."

The FBI began showing an interest in Mrs. McMillan in late October 1963, which was about one year after she had returned to the United States after a second visit to Russia in 1962.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, on Oct. 26, 1963, received the first of four letters in connection with an unsubstantiated report Mrs. McMillan was "of interest to KGB for possible recruitment."

Curiously, the letters and FBI inquiries made about Mrs. McMillan's status at Harvard from Oct. 25 through Nov. 19 coincided almost exactly with the period during which FBI agent James Hosty of Dallas was trying to learn more about Oswald's activities in this area.

It was not until Nov. 14 the FBI noted it surreptitiously had established where Mrs. McMillan was living on the university campus and that she was "doing some work at Harvard."

Mrs. McMillan said she wouldn't have expected the FBI to wait a year after her second return from Russia before the agency took an interest in her as a possible spy.

"It was rather delayed, but I think that's par for the course," she said. "Especially since I was back in this country and not in the Soviet Union."

A "possible source" for the FBI was Llewellyn Thompson, U.S. ambassador to Russia, Mrs. McMillan said. She said she told Thompson the "whole story" about how some Russians had tried unsuccessfully to ply her for information during her first visit to the Soviet Union from 1958 to 1960.